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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/903,211

07/11/2001

Yoshiaki Hiratsuka

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7590

09/30/2004

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EXAMINER

SEFER, AHMED N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2826

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/903,211

Applicant(s)

HIRATSUKA ET AL.

Examiner

A. Sefer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2004.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 and 9-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 9-14 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed July 12, 2004 has been entered and claim 17 has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 7, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Whitcher et al. ("Whitcher") USPN 6,144,552.

Whitcher discloses (see figs. 1 and 2 and col. 3, lines 41-63) a display panel module comprising a display panel 73 defining a screen on a front surface; a panel-shaped module component 17 superposed on a rear surface of the display panel or opposed to a rear surface of the display panel, the panel-shaped module component excluding a metal frame (as in claim 16); and an electrically insulating frame 15 bezel enclosing the display panel and the panel-shaped module component so as to couple the module component; to the display panel, wherein said electrically insulating bezel includes a flat plate 21 defining a window 22 for exposing the front surface of the display panel, said flat plate being designed to receive the front surface of the display panel around the window; and a wall 23 extending from a rear surface of the flat plate, said wall being opposed to a peripheral end surface of the module component so align the module component with the display panel.

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As for claim 15, Whitcher discloses (col. 6, lines 9-19) said module component comprising at least a light source (CCFL backlight).

4. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Whitcher.

Whitcher discloses (see figs. 1 and 2 and col. 3, lines 41-63) a housing 13 and a display panel module incorporated within the housing, wherein display panel module comprises a display panel 73 defining a screen on a front surface; a panel-shaped module component 17 superposed on a rear surface of the display panel; and an electrically insulating bezel 15 enclosing the display panel and the panel-shaped module component so as to couple the module component to the display panel.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yun et al. ("Yun") USPN 5,835,139 in view of Beatty et al. ("Beatty") 5,233,502.

Yun discloses (see figs. 6 and 7 and claim 1) a display panel module comprising a display panel 300 defining a screen on a front surface; a panel-shaped module component 400 superposed on a rear surface of the display panel; and an electrically insulating bezel 190 enclosing the display panel and the panel-shaped module component so as to couple the module component to the display panel, but does not disclose a flat plate and/or a wall extending from a rear surface of the flat plate.

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Beatty discloses in figs. 1-3 and electrically insulating bezel 3 including a flat plate defining a window 7 for exposing a front surface of a display panel, said flat plate designed to receive a front surface of a display panel around the window; and a wall (unnumbered) extending from a rear surface of the flat plate, said wall being opposed to peripheral end surface of a module component 4 so as to align the module component to a display panel.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Beatty's teachings with Yun's device since that would provide a better application versatility as taught by Beatty.

As for claim 15, Yun discloses said module component comprising at least one of a diffuser 180, a prism plate 160, a light source 110 and a reflector 140.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2-6 and 9-14 are allowed.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Karasaki (JP 11-167108) discloses in fig. 1. a module including flat plate and/or a wall extending from a rear surface of the flat plate.

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

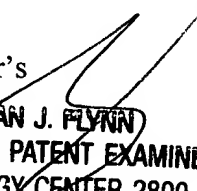
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Sefer whose telephone number is (571) 272-1921.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915.


NATHAN J. FLYNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ANS
September 23, 2004